**Ad hoc Meeting concerning Walkability / Bicycling**

Location: Council Meeting Room in Eatontown Borough Hall

Date / Time: November 28, 2017

6:30 PM – 8:15 PM

Attendance: Stephen Fratini (minute taker), Virginia East, Erik Brachman, Candace Faust, Janice Grasso

Note: For brevity, the term “walkability” is used in the following minutes to cover walking and bicycling.

There was no specific agenda for this meeting other than to make recommendations concerning next steps for walkability / bicycling in Eatontown, and report back to the various committees.

Steve presented some ideas concerning a phased approach, where we start with something simple and get a quick win. Phase 1 entailed the creation of a monthly walk program.

Candace presented her research into various grants and programs that could help Eatontown with our walkability goals. Steve offered to merge the material that he presented with that from Candace.

Janice presented some ideas concerning our parks, and recommended that we do the initial monthly walk at 80 Acres Park just after the Egg Hunt (March 24, 2018). Janice also mentioned some checklists that we could use to evaluate the status of our walkability, e.g., see the AARP Walk Audit Took Kit at <https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/documents-2016/Walk-Audit-Tool-Kit/AARP-Walk-Audit-Tool-Kit-100416.pdf>).

Steve gave a brief presentation on how to use <https://www.gmap-pedometer.com/> to map out a walking path in Eatontown, and suggested a path from Wampum Lake to Eatontown Borough Hall to the Arboretum and back. Janice presented a physical map of Eatontown and said she could also get large scale maps of each Eatontown sector (which would also be helpful in mapping-out walking / bicycling routes).

With regard to the walks, Virginia said that we could probably get support from the EMT folks and police. All agreed that would be great. She also suggested that we could plan an EMT presentation / talk after or before one of the monthly walks.

Steve suggested the walks might end at a local restaurant. Erik said that should at least try to get some snack food for after the walk (e.g., bananas, bagels).

With regard to bike paths and other changes to the streets, Erik noted that several of the main roads through Eatontown are under the supervision of either the state or county. Erik also mentioned that we should be aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to make sure the walks are accessible to all interested parties.

In terms of another walking path, Janice suggested a route along Wampum Lake. She showed the team a marked-up map with part of the suggested path.

Steve asked if this activity should be formalized. Virginia said that we should wait until after the new council is in place (in January) and this would likely become a subcommittee of an existing committee.

Suggested path forward:

* For Phase 1, plan a series of monthly walks.
  + The first walk would be as noted above, i.e., at 80 Acres Park just after the Egg Hunt. Janice, Erik, Virginia and Steve will do a dry run of the walk on Dec. 5th at 2PM.
  + The second walk (April 2017) would feature the Arboretum. Need to schedule a dry run for this.
* In parallel with Phase 1, we would start to apply for grants and outside help. Candace and Virginia emphasized that such applications can take time and so we should start as soon as possible.